



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

**FROM:** Jesse Rodriguez, Business Process Specialist  
Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs

**DATE:** February 13, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) Awardees

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the Commission approve the GTOPs Grant Review Committee's recommended nine (9) 2019 GTOPs Awards, as ratified by the Committee at the February 11, 2019 Final Deliberation.

### GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

[GTOPs](#) provides matching grant funds to Austin organizations that promote citizen access to information technology, or that offer literacy programs that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion, particularly in underserved segments of our community.

The goals of the program are to:

- Increase use of digital and communications technology devices
- Increase knowledge and skills of digital and communications technology
- Increase access to and usage of the Internet

### AWARDEE SELECTION PROCESS

Letters of Interest for the 2019 grant were accepted from October 1, 2018 through October 26, 2018 and grant applications were accepted from November 5, 2018 through November 30, 2018. The Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission appointed a volunteer Grant Review Committee comprised of seven (7) qualified community representatives, all of whom remained on the committee for the duration of the process. The City received a total of twenty-seven (27) applications for GTOPs 2019. The Committee eliminated twelve (12) applications in the first round of scoring. The review board scored the remaining fifteen (15) applicants based on the selection criteria outlined by the Commission including: the ability to promote citizen access to information technology, or that offer literacy programs that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion, community impact, evaluation of success and budget/fiscal responsibility. The applicants proceeding to Round 2 scoring were given the opportunity to present an oral presentation to the review committee, followed by a question and answer session. After the final scores were tallied and

discussed, staff developed recommendations for full and partial awards based on the funding & ranking guidelines as detailed in the next section.

## **FUNDING & RANKING GUIDELINES**

- 1) Full and partial awards will be evaluated for each GTOPs goal area.
- 2) \$200,000 in GTOPs funds and indefinite number of devices available.
- 3) The minimum amount any organization may be awarded is 70% of their request amount.
- 4) To ensure scores are consistent as well as fair, each judge's scores are normalized so that their average score across all applicants is 80%.
- 5) The highest scores generally receive the highest awards recommendation for each GTOPs goal area, 100% of their request (20-30 devices and/or a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$25,000).
- 6) Lower scoring but still above average applicants receive a partial awards recommendation as appropriate (including devices).

## **CONSENSUS**

The Grant Review Committee achieved consensus and all reviewers assigned a similar score to a proposal, this increased the validation that proposals were accurately reviewed per criteria, and to gain coherence through thoughtful deliberation at presentations and final deliberation for the scoring assigned by reviewers.

## **FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Of the organizations recommended for GTOPs 2019 funding, six (6) programs have received GTOPs funding in the past and three (3) programs are new to GTOPs. Funding is available per the \$200,000 allocated by City Council in the FY 2019 budget. The methodology for selection of the grantees is as follows:

- The top scoring organization for each GTOPs Goal area received 100% of their award request
- The top scoring organizations with organization income of \$0-\$499,999 and \$500,000-\$999,999 received 100% of their request
- The second highest scoring organizations with organization income of \$0-\$499,999 and \$500,000-\$999,999 received 95% of their request
- The three highest scoring of the remaining organizations each receive the same percent of their request.

Staff requests the Commission approve the GTOPs Grant Review Committee's recommended 2019 GTOPs Awards. Upon your ratification and approval, the recommended GTOPs 2019 Awards will be submitted to the City Manager's Designee, Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager, for approval to negotiate and execute contracts.

Please feel free to contact me at 512.974.7676 if you need additional information.



Jesse Rodriguez, Business Process Specialist  
Attachment: Attachment (A)

Date 2/13/2019

**Exhibit A: GTOPs 2019 Grant Review Committee Award Recommendation**

Organization	Organizational Income	GTOPs Priority	Request	Total Cost	Devices Requested	Final Scores Normalized	Ratio of GTOPs to Program Cost	Recommended Percent	Recommended Funding
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	\$2,000,000+	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$111,400	0	88.17	22.44%	100.00%	\$25,000.00
Breakthrough Central Texas	\$2,000,000+	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$63,000	0	86.41	39.29%	72.17%	\$18,041.25
E4 Youth	\$0-499,000	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$232,100	20	86.40	10.77%	100.00%	\$25,000.00
Austin Children's Museum (DBA Thinkery)	\$2,000,000+	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$117,074	0	85.91	21.35%	72.17%	\$18,041.25
Latinitas	\$0-499,000	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$62,220	0	84.61	40.18%	95.00%	\$23,750.00
Girl Scouts of Central Texas	\$2,000,000+	Knowledge and Skills	\$22,750	\$106,552	0	84.59	21.35%	72.16%	\$16,417.50
Creative Action	\$2,000,000+	Devices	\$25,000	\$67,000	0	82.54	37.31%	100.00%	\$25,000.00
Austin Free-Net	\$500,000-999,999	Internet Access	\$25,000	\$65,381	0	78.86	38.24%	100.00%	\$25,000.00
Motion Media Arts Center	\$500,000-999,999	Knowledge and Skills	\$25,000	\$61,572	0	74.49	40.60%	95.00%	\$23,750.00
									\$200,000.00

Has not received GTOPs before	
Highest and Second highest scoring for bottom 2 income brackets	
Top Scoring for each GTOPs goal area	

Additional Device Awards	
Organization	# of Devices
American Youthworks	30
ChickTech	15
Front Steps	30
Huston-Tillotson University	25
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	10